

REMARKS

The indication that claims 2-9, 11, 12 and 14-23 are allowed and that this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, is acknowledged.

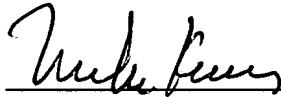
By the present amendment, the title has been amended to conform to the title as used throughout the prosecution of this application and as found in the declaration submitted with the application papers on April 12, 2000. With regard to the requirement for new formal drawings including the corrections of 04/03/02, such drawings are submitted herewith. Furthermore, with respect to the documents submitted on 04/03/02, submitted herewith is a Form PTO-1449 equivalent listing such documents for consideration by the Examiner. As to the requirement to submit a new oath or declaration, such requirement is traversed as being unnecessary in that the declaration as filed with the application papers and referred to in the transmittal letter at the time of filing should be considered proper. Applicants note that an assignment of this application by the same inventors as in the executed declaration was filed with the application papers on April 12, 2000, and an official filing receipt was mailed June 19, 2000, acknowledging receipt of all requirements including a properly executed declaration. Furthermore, it is noted that the declaration as submitted with the application papers identified a claim for priority for two Japanese applications filed April 12, 1999 of Japanese Patent Application H11-104392 and H11-104393 with a separate claim for priority and the certified copies of the Japanese applications being filed on May 23, 2000. It is apparent that such priority applications support the claimed subject matter, and therefore, applicants submit that the declaration accompanying the application papers properly identify the specification, even though the term "member" was inadvertently not included in the title of the specification. Applicants submit that it is apparent that the declaration, as submitted with the application papers, is proper and should be considered and insofar as any defect is present in the declaration, applicants petition for waiver in

accordance with 37 CFR 1.183, if deemed necessary, and authorize charging of the petition fee to the deposit account of the undersigned as set forth in the last paragraph of this paper. Thus, applicants submit that the requirement for a new oath or declaration should be waived.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants submit that the informalities noted by the Examiner should now be overcome and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicant's petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (648.38454X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melvin Kraus', is written over a horizontal line.

Melvin Kraus

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